

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 7076 – SB 7016**

August 22, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to allocate to each local education agency (LEA) sufficient funds for the LEA to employ one full-time licensed professional school counselor position for every 250 student members of the LEA or one full-time position for each LEA and public charter school within the LEA, whichever is greater. Requires each LEA and public charter school to employ a licensed professional school counselor for each position funded. Establishes the funds allocated to an LEA pursuant to this section are in addition to the funds allocated to the LEA through the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA).

Establishes that this act is not an appropriation of funds and requires funding to be appropriated by the General Assembly before any funds can be obligated or expended. Effective October 1, 2023, and applies to the 2023-24 school year and each subsequent year.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$209,737,400/FY23-24**  
**Exceeds \$279,649,800/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- DOE will be required to provide additional funding to LEAs to employ full-time licensed professional school counselor positions. This allocation from DOE is separate from any funding received by LEAs through the TISA and does not require any local expenditures.
- There are currently 1,826 public schools and public charter schools in Tennessee.
- Based on the funded average daily membership (ADM) of 966,728 in FY23-24, a ratio of one counselor for every 250 ADM would generate approximately 3,867 positions.
- The total cost per licensed professional school counselor position would be \$72,317 (\$58,612 average instructional salary + \$13,705 benefits).
- It is estimated that funding the number of proposed counselors will increase state expenditures \$279,649,839 (3,867 x \$72,317) per year.
- Due to the effective date of October 1, 2023, the impact in FY23-24 will be 75 percent of a full year impact or \$209,737,379 (\$279,649,839 x 75%).
- The minimum educator salary is scheduled to increase gradually over the next several years from \$42,000 in FY24-25 to \$50,000 in FY26-27.

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- Because some LEAs have salaries below the minimum, additional funds would need to be appropriated in order for all LEAs to meet the new minimum salaries. Any such additional expenditures are not considered a direct result of this legislation.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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